



Congressional China Caucus

U.S. House of Representatives
Congressman J. Randy Forbes, Founder & Co-Chairman
Congressman Ike Skelton, Co-Chairman
www.house.gov/forbes

ISSUE BRIEF

IN FOCUS THIS WEEK: Avian Bird Flu in China October 26, 2005

As governments in North America and Europe grow increasingly worried about the possibility of a global epidemic of bird flu, one crucial player is China. Yet for now, much of what China is doing to manage a possible epidemic is a mystery.

New York Times, October 18, 2005

An April 2005 draft report of the National Planning Scenarios, produced by the President's Homeland Security Council and the Department of Homeland Security, puts the economic impact of a flu pandemic at \$87 billion to \$203 billion.

Marilyn Werber Serafini, National Journal, October 22, 2005

According to officials at the World Health Organization, to avert a pandemic that begins in China the government's surveillance system would have to detect an outbreak before it is able to infect more than 20 people, and no more than three weeks have passed since exposure.

Melinda Liu, Newsweek, October 31, 2005

The conventional flu costs America \$118 billion in an average year, and an avian-flu pandemic could be almost six times more deadly. Clifford Tan, a Citigroup analyst in Singapore, estimates that an outbreak could shave 5 percent off GDP in Asia as travel ceases, manufacturing slows and quarantines halt trade in its tracks—an outcome worse than SARS or the 1997 Asian financial meltdown. "The potential impact is catastrophic," he says. "It would be the biggest downturn we have ever seen in Asia, period."

George Wehrfritz and Rod Nordland, Newsweek International, October 24, 2005

The avian influenza A (H5N1) epizootic (animal outbreak) in Asia is not expected to diminish significantly in the short term. It is likely that H5N1 infection among birds has become endemic to the region and that human infections resulting from direct contact with infected poultry will continue to occur. Additionally, other findings have documented H5N1 infection among pigs in China.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, October 17, 2005

Did You Know

Nearly 2,600 birds infected with the lethal H5N1 flu strain were found dead at a breeding facility in a northern Chinese village near Hohhot, the capital of Inner Mongolia.

Chicago Sun-Times
October 20, 2005

IN THE NEWS

Newsweek
The Flimsy Wall of China
Melinda Liu
October 31, 2005 Issue

Washington Post
China: 2,600 Birds Dead of Bird Flu
Judith Ingram
October 19, 2005

New York Times
Poultry Power: China, With Huge Flocks, Is at Big Flu Risk
Keith Bradsher
October 18, 2005

RECOMMENDED READING

Newsweek
Cover Story
The Bird Flu: The Race to Prevent a Global Epidemic
October 31, 2005 Issue

National Journal
The Big One?
How Governments Deal With the Avian-Bird Flu Threat Could Determine Whether it's a Containable event or a Full-Blown Catastrophe
October 22, 2005 Issue



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CONGRESSIONAL ISSUE BRIEF
October 26, 2005

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Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)	Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA)

UPCOMING CHINA CAUCUS EVENTS

TODAY	
October 26	Joint China Caucus/Shipbuilding
9:00 am	Caucus Members-only classified briefing
H-405	by DIA Director Jacoby on China's Naval Modernization
November 3	Members-only meeting with the members of
11:00 am	the U.S.-China Economic and Security
2216 Rayburn	Review Commission
January 2006	Roundtable discussion with Admiral Mike
	Mullins, Chief of Naval Operations,
	regarding China's Naval Expansion and
	Shipbuilding Plan

ABOUT THE CAUCUS

The Congressional China Caucus is a bipartisan forum for Members of Congress who share a common interest in the emergence of China as a political, economic and military actor on both the regional and global stage. The Caucus will take a critical look at a number of issues including: Military, Economy/Trade, Intellectual Property, Energy/Resources, and Human Rights/Religious Freedom.

To join the Caucus, please contact Jamie Jones Miller at 5-6365 or jamie.miller@mail.house.gov.